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appeared at a time when the Sun as a whole was extremely active. A photograph of the Sun showing this group somewhat past its prime was reproduced by Mr. Ellerman in the February number of these PUBLICATIONS (Plate I). The only rivals of these two huge groups, which have been observed during the past half century, were in February of 1892 and 1905, respectively.

SETH B. NICHOLSON.

NINETEEN NEW VARIABLE STARS

In the course of a study of the magnitudes of the southern globular cluster Messier 68 (N. G. C. 4590; R. A. = $12^h34^m.2$, Decl. = $-26°12'$, 1900.0), a number of stars of the sixteenth magnitude were found by Miss Ritchie to vary in light. The following list gives the position of the variables with respect to the center.

POSITIONS IN VARIABLES IN MESSIER 68

Star No.	x	y	Star No.	x	y
1	−4′40″	+1′49″	11	+0′19″	−1′36″
2	−2 48	−0 45	12	+0 33	+1 10
3	−2 20	+1 31	13	+0 48	+0 8
4	−1 57	−2 11	14	+1 1	−0 22
5	−0 56	+2 50	15	+1 4	+6 20
6	−0 31	+0 40	16	+2 21	+2 3
7	−0 4	+3 38	17	+2 38	−0 44
8	+0 9	+0 58	*18	+6 20	+4 23
9	+0 11	+1 20	19	+7 20	+2 40
10	+0 16	−1 15			

Variable No. 18, one of the brightest stars in the cluster, appears to have a long period. All the others are probably typical cluster-type variables. Their amplitudes are of the order of one magnitude and their periods are short.

The median brightness of these short-period variables is between one and two magnitudes fainter than the brightest cluster stars, closely agreeing in this respect with the results for other clusters that contain Cepheid variables. A study of the light variations, therefore, will yield an accurate value of the parallax and absolute magnitudes for all the stars in the cluster. HARLOW SHAPLEY.

THE "NEW STAR" IN SERPENS, 7.1917

Two years ago, while photographing the position of the asteroid *Boliviana*, Professor Wolf found an image (magnitude 9.0 on the B. D. scale) that was not recorded on any of his plates prior to 1910 (*A. N.*, **204**, 293, 1917). Visual observations by Mündler and Wolf verified the star's existence but showed no variation in light. Later the designation 7.1917 was assigned to the object.